

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 1, 2009 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuda (U.S. Patent No. 7,222,904). Claims 2-4, 6, 8, and 10 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim, but were otherwise be allowable.

Claim 1, upon which claims 5, 7, and 9 were directly or indirectly dependent, has been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 2 has been amended to be an independent form, including the subject matter of claim 1. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to properly depend from claim 2. Therefore, claims 3-9 all properly depend upon allowable claim 2.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 2-10 contain subject matter which has been indicated as being allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that these claims be allowed and this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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